

REPORT

FROM THE
COMMITTEE

To Whom the
PETITION
OF SEVERAL

YEOMEN, FARMERS, and GRASIERS,
in the Counties of *Middlesex*, *Surrey*, and *Kent*,
whose Names are thereunto subscribed, in Behalf of
Themselves, and many Others concerned in the
Growth of CORN, and the Breeding and Fattening
of CATTLE, was Referred ;

And to Whom was also Referred the PETITION
of the YEOMEN and FARMERS of *East-Kent*.



Printed in the Year M.DCC.XLV.

REPORT

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COMMITTEE

To Which the

PETITION

OF SEVERAL

YEOMEN, FARMERS, AND GRASSIERS,

in the Counties of Middlesex, Surrey, and Kent,

whose Names are hereunto subscribed, in Behalf of

themselves, and many Others concerned in the

Growth of Corn, and the Breeding and Rearing

of CATTLE, was Received

At the House of Commons, on the 10th of May, 1791.

of the Yeomen and Farmers, East-Kent.



Printed in the Year MDCCXIV.

REPORT

UPON THE

PETITION

RELATING TO

Malted CORN.

THE Committee, to whom the Petition of several Yeomen, Farmers, and Graiers, in the Counties of *Middlesex*, *Surrey*, and *Kent*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, in Behalf of Themselves and many Others, concerned in the Growth of Corn, and the Breeding and Fattening of Cattle, was referred; and to whom was also referred the Petition of the Yeomen and Farmers of *East-Kent*; have, pursuant to the Orders of the House, examined the Matters of the said Petitions.

To prove what was alleged in the first Petition; the Acts of Parliament recited therein were read: The first of which, being an Act made in the Second Year of the Reign of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, for the Encouraging of the Distilling of Brandy from Corn, recites, That by an Act made in the First Year of their said Majesties Reign (for prohibiting Commerce with *France*) all Brandies, *Aqua Vita*, and Spirits, were prohibited to be imported into this Kingdom; and that good and wholesome Brandies, *Aqua Vita*, and Spirits, might be drawn from malted Corn; and therefore, for encouraging the making of Brandies, strong Waters, and Spirits, from malted Corn, and for the greater Consumption of Corn, and the Advantage of Tillage in this Kingdom, im-

posed

posed a Duty of One Penny only on every Gallon of Low Wines of the first Extraction, drawn from Drink brewed and made of any Sort of malted Corn; and likewise imposed the several Duties of Eight-pence, Twelve-pence, and Three-pence, on every Gallon of Low Wines made or drawn from the several other Materials therein mentioned; and makes Provision for obliging Distillers to draw their Low Wines, or Spirits of the first Extraction, from clean and wholesome Drink, made of malted Corn intirely, without any Mixture with any Melasses, Wash, or Tilts, or other Materials whatsoever; and, for encouraging the Exportation of Brandy or Spirits made from malted Corn, allows a Drawback of Threepence for every Gallon of such Brandy or Spirits, without any Mixture with other Materials.

This Act was continued by another Act made in the Seventh and Eighth Years of the Reign of King *William*.

And by the Act made in the Thirteenth Year of the Reign of King *William*, for granting several new Duties on Low Wines, or Spirits of the first Extraction, the like Drawback of Threepence upon the Exportation of every Gallon of Spirits or Brandy made from malted Corn only, is allowed.

The Act made in the Sixth Year of his present Majesty's Reign, for the better Encouragement of Spirits drawn from Corn, in *Great Britain*, allows a Drawback, upon Exportation, of 4 *l.* 18 *s.* for every Tun of such Spirits drawn from Barley, Malt, or other Corn; and also a Bounty of 1 *l.* 10 *s.* when Barley is at 24 *s.* per Quarter, or under.

After which several Witnesses were examined, with regard to that Part of the said Petition, which complains of a Decrease in the Consumption of Corn, by Distillers using Corn unmalted:

And the Evidence, given to that Point, was to the Effect following:

Mr. *Stephen South*, Dealer in Spirits, said, That Four Parts in Five of the Corn, from which Distillers at present draw their Spirits, are unmalted: That in 1739 he saw an Instance of this Practice at a Distiller's at *Deptford*, and counted the Sacks of malted and unmalted Corn, as they were emptied into the Tun.

Mr. *William Harvest*, Malt-Distiller, said, That, during the Time he was concerned in the Business of Distilling, which was from 1726 to 1731, Two Parts in Three of the Corn used in Drawing Spirits, were generally malted; but that he had heard, that the greatest Part of the Corn used of late, is unmalted.

He

He said likewise, That about Twelve Quarters of Barley produce One Tun of Spirits; which, if drawn from Malt, will require Fourteen Quarters, and thereby occasion an additional Expence of about 3 *l.* 12 *s.* each Tun; and that Spirits, drawn from Barley, are not, as he apprehends, so good as Spirits drawn from Malt.

Mr. *Thomas Waite*, Farmer, said, That the Distillers never use worse Corn than the Maltsters; that they will not buy sprouted Corn, because their Spirits excel in Goodness, proportionably to the Goodness of the Corn; and that therefore Corn, when it is bad, must be a great Loss to the Farmers, if they cannot fat Hogs with it.

Mr. *John Parker*, Farmer, said, That he grows 400 Quarters of Barley in a Year: That he sold to a Distiller some damaged Corn, that was capable of being malted, for 20 *s.* *per* Quarter, when the Price of other Corn was at 24 *s.* *per* Quarter.

That some Part of sprouted Corn is capable of being malted; but that not above One Half of mow-burnt Corn will malt, as had been found upon Trial.

Being asked the Question, he said, That if Distillers were prohibited the Use of unmalted Corn, there would be a great Quantity, yearly, that could not be malted, from which Spirits might be drawn; but that the Farmers might, as he believed, use all of it themselves in feeding Hogs and Horses; and that the Consumption thereof this Way would be more beneficial, than any Advantage they can make of it at present.

Mr. *Timothy Child*, Farmer, said, That Corn, in wet Harvests, is frequently very much sprouted; and that One Half of it will not then malt.

Which was also confirmed by Mr. *Pope*, Farmer, who grows Seven or Eight Hundred Quarters of Barley in One Year, and sells the same to Maltsters; and who added likewise, that he never had any Corn incapable of being malted, during the Time he has been in Business, which is about Four Years; but that there is, in bad Harvests, in *England*, Corn that cannot be malted; and that mow-burnt Corn will not malt: That he has had Corn very bad, with which he would have fed Hogs, had he had Opportunity; and that other Farmers feed Hogs and Horses with damaged Corn: That he has offered to sell Corn to a Distiller; but he would not give the Price for it the Maltster would.

Mr. *Ralph Porter*, Maltster, said, That the Distillers using such a large Quantity of Corn unmalted, lessens the Consumption of Corn, diminishes the Malt Duty, and deprives the Maltsters of the Profit of the Manufactory; which he demonstrated in the following Manner:

He said, That, upon Trial of the Experiment, he found, that Eight Bushels of clean Barley weighed 408 Pounds; and that Eleven Bushels of Malt, made from the same Barley, weighed 407 Pounds; so that, according to this Proportion, the Weight of 100 Quarters of Barley answers to the Weight of 137 Quarters Four Bushels of Pale Malt.

That 131 Quarters of Barley will increase, in the Malting, to 137 Quarters Four Bushels.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Which Barley, computed at 14 <i>s.</i> <i>per</i> Quarter, amounts to	-	-	-
The Six Quarters Four Bushels increased in the Malting, computed at 20 <i>s.</i> <i>per</i> Quarter, amounts to	91	14	0
The Duty for malting the said 131 Quarters, amounts to	-	-	-
The Manufacturing, at 2 <i>s.</i> <i>per</i> Quarter, amounts to	6	10	0
10	26	4	0
	13	2	0
In all	137	10	0

Therefore, as the 100 Quarters of Barley are equal in Weight to 137 Quarters 4 Bushels when malted, which Barley at 14*s.* *per* Quarter, amounts only to 70*l.*

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
The Witness inferred, That the Distillers using unmalted Corn, occasioned a Decrease in the Consumption of 31 Quarters of Barley in every 100; which, at 14 <i>s.</i> <i>per</i> Quarter, amounts to	21	14	0
And a Loss in the Malt Duty of	26	4	0
And to the Manufacturer, of	13	2	0
And, computing the Increase of Six Quarters Four Bushels, which is	6	10	0

The whole Loss amounts to 67 10 0

He could give no satisfactory Answer when he was asked, Whether 100 Quarters of Barley would make as much Spirit as 100 Quarters of Malt: But, in another Part of his Examination, he said, That he believed, if the Spirit could be got clean

clean out of 100 Quarters of Barley, it would produce a Quantity equal to 137 Quarters 4 Bushels of Malt, by reason the Weight of both is equal ; and it is upon Weight that he grounded his Computation. He added further, That what Strength the Distiller does not extract in Spirit from Barley, when ground, remained in the Grains, which he gives to Hogs.

With regard to the additional Expence the Distillers would be at by the Use of malted Corn only, he said, He apprehended that they are able to bear Part of that Expence ; for that before the late Duty was imposed, Distillers sold Spirits for 18*l. per* Tun ; but afterwards they made the Duty a Pretence for raising the Price to 24*l. per* Tun.

Mr. *William Harvest* said, That he believed the additional Expence of Spirits drawn from intire Malt, would be 7*d. per* Gallon ; but that the same would not necessarily occasion the Price to be raised, the present Profit of the Distillers being between Three and Four Pounds *per* Tun ; though, he doubted not, they would raise the Price in Proportion to their additional Expence ; and that Spirits drawn from Malt would deserve an higher Price, being much better than those drawn from Barley.

Mr. *South* said, That one Tun of Malt Spirits
(which is 252 Gallons) made into Gin, and re-*l. s. d.*
tailed at Three Half-pence the Quarter of a Pint
(which is 4*s. per* Gallon), amounts to - - 50 8 0

That a Tun of Malt Spirits sold at 1*s. 10 d. per*
Gallon from the Distiller, amounts to - - 23 2 0

Which Spirits, if drawn intirely from Malt, would
increase the Expence 7*d. per* Gallon ; which,
for a Tun, amounts to - - 7 7 0

So that, in that Case, the Difference of Profit be-
tween the Compounder and Dealer is 1*s. 7 d.*
per Gallon ; which, for a Tun, is - - 19 19 0

50 8 0

That great Quantities of Gin are mixed one-third Part with Water, and is sold for 1*d.* the Quarter of a Pint ; which, though it brings the Spirit to the same Price of 50*l. 8 s. per* Tun, yet it occasions an Increase, for which no Corn is consumed, or any Duty paid.

That as the Profit upon every Tun of Spirits, drawn from Malt only, would (exclusive of the Distillers Profit) amount to 19*l. 19 s. per* Tun, the Witness said, There could be no Reason to apprehend, that any additional Expence would fall upon the
Con-

Consumer ; and, consequently, that the Grower of Corn would sustain no Loss.

He said, That unmalted Corn was, at first, made use of by the Distillers, under Pretence of making a Paste of it, to put round the Tun, to prevent their Spirits from evaporating ; from which Time the Use of it has gradually increased to the present Proportion.

That at the Time when Distillers used malted Corn intirely, they sold their Spirits at 1 s. 10 d. *per* Gallon ; but that about Two Years since they raised the Price of Spirits from 18 l. to 24 l. *per* Tun ; and that they have at present a very large Profit, besides the Advantage of feeding Hogs.

Mr. *John Butterfield*, a Farmer, who rents 300 l. *per Annum*, said, That the Price of Corn was reduced at the Time Distillers raised the Price of Spirits, as mentioned by Mr. *South* ; and that, was Corn to be sold at 24 s. *per* Quarter, the Profit of the Distillers is so large, that they would have no Occasion to raise the Price of Spirits.

He said further, That there has been no considerable Exportation of Corn for many Years ; and that the Price at present is so low, that it is impossible for the most industrious Farmer to gain a Livelihood : That when 500,000 Quarters are exported in any one Year, the Price is raised considerably ; and that, if Distillers were obliged to draw their Spirits from Corn malted, it would occasion an Increase in the Consumption of 300,000 Quarters every Year, from which a great Benefit would arise ; whereas the Distillers Trade at present is a great Detriment to the Farmers : But he owned, the Distillers must pay for the Increase of that Consumption.

That he hath had large Quantities of Corn, in some Years, incapable of being malted, which he could make use of in feeding Hogs ; and that, were the Distillers to use malted Corn only, the Farmers could feed Hogs as cheap as they ; but now, by reason the Distillers buy only the best Corn, the damaged Corn is useless to the Farmers, it being not worth their while to fat Hogs with it.

Mr. *Harvest* said, That the Distillers cannot use bad Corn unmalted, because it gives their Spirits a Taste ; but that coarse smutty Wheat and Barley, when malted, will make good Spirits : That Distillers buy both good and bad Corn at *Bear-Key* ; and that, at present, the Farmers give their bad Corn to their Horses.

And He and *Butterfield* said likewise, That, in case the Distillers used none but malted Corn, they would then be obliged to buy the Farmers damaged Corn to fat their Hogs.

And

And the said *Butterfield* being asked, Whether a further Imposition of 4 *d. per* Gallon on Spirits at the Still-head would be an Advantage to the Grower of Corn? he said, He believed it would be greatly injurious to the Farmers; for that it would not increase the Consumption of Corn, and they would still suffer.

Then, in order to prove that Hogs are fed with the Grains of unmalted Corn, used by Distillers, and the great Detriment that Farmers sustain thereby, the Evidence given to the Committee was as follows:

Mr. *Thomas Waite* said, That he has seen 2000 Hogs fattening, at one Time, in a Distiller's Yard at *Deptford*: That they are not fed with Corn, but Distillers Wash, and other Things by them used, whereby they are kept always drunk: That by this Method, he said, a Hog will be fatted in about Twelve or Thirteen Weeks; but that their Fat is only Grease or Tallow; and that he can, at the Market, distinguish Hogs fed in this manner, from Hogs fed in the Country: And that he apprehends, the Flesh of Hogs, fed by Distillers, will not take Salt; but he never tried the Experiment.

That poor People, who have bought Distillers Hogs, have declared, They would rather give 2 *s. per* Stone for Country-fed Hogs, than 14 *d. per* Stone for those fed by Distillers; the latter of which, he said, he could buy for that Price.

That this Practice of feeding Hogs is prejudicial to the Farmers, who cannot dispose of their Offal and damaged Corn otherwise than by feeding Hogs and Fowls; which Hogs they cannot feed so cheap as the Distillers; nor is it possible to feed them without dry Meat; and that the best Bacon is the Bacon of Hogs fed with the best Peas.

Mr. *John Butterfield* said, That in the Year 1722 he fatted a great many Hogs with Corn not capable of being malted; and the Price of Bacon was, at that time, 2 *s. 4 d. per* Stone to the Market, and 2 *s. 6 d. per* Stone to private Families: That the next Year it was 2 *s. 6 d. per* Stone to Market, and 2 *s. 8 d. per* Stone to private Families: That the succeeding Year it sold for 2 *s. 2 d.* to Market, and 2 *s. 4 d. per* Stone to private Families; but he could not recollect what the Price of Corn was at that time: That he afterwards fatted Hogs for some time; but when Pork was reduced to 20 *d. per* Stone, he left it off; and that that Sort of Corn he then fed Hogs with, is now useless to him.

That many Farmers have left off feeding and breeding of Swine; for they may as well throw their Corn away, as attempt

to feed Swine upon an Average with the Distillers: That the sprouted Corn, with which the Witness used to feed Hogs, he makes very little Use of at present; some of it, he said, he had sold to a Person who grinds Corn for the Distillers, at 4 s. *per* Quarter less than the Price he sold Corn at to the Maltsters; and the Person who bought it, sold it again at 3 s. *per* Quarter Loss: That the Bacon of the Swine fed by the Distillers, when it comes to be boiled, wastes half away, and the Remainder of it is very soft and greasy; and that the keeping many Swine confined together, breeds Distempers amongst them: That he apprehends, if the Distillers were restrained from feeding Hogs in this manner, it would be a great Advantage to the Farmers at a considerable Distance from *London*, especially those who have fenny Lands, or who live in inland Countries; for they then would feed many more Hogs, and might send them to Market when they could not send their Corn.

That the very best fed Pork may now be bought for 20 d. *per* Stone; and great Quantities are sold under that Price.

That several Persons in the West of *England* used to send Hogs to *Portsmouth*; and would now, if they could get a Price for it upon an Average with the Distillers.

Being examined, as to an Advertisement last Year from the Victualling-Office, which expressed, That the Commissioners of the Victualling-Office had dealt, and were willing to deal again, with the Farmers; he said, He had heard of it; but that Proposals are always sent to the Commissioners, and the lowest Price is accepted; and that he believed the Victualling-Office had not dealt with Farmers for many Years.

Mr. *William Harveft* said, That, during the Time he was in the Business of the Distillery, Spirits being then drawn from Corn Two Parts malted, to One unmalted, the Wash would feed, but not fat Swine, without a Mixture of dry Corn.

That he took Four Hogs, fed with Distillers Wash; and though he gave them each a Sack of Peas, yet, when their Flesh came to be boiled, the Fat separated from the Lean, and was so bad, that his Servants could not eat it.

And he added, That, if the Distillers were to use no unmalted Corn, they could not feed Hogs, without mixing coarse Corn with their Wash.

Mr. *John Parker* said, That the Number of Hogs, fatted by the Distillers, has lessened the Value of Country Pork; and believes it to be the Cause of the Cheapness of all other Meat; and that it was likewise a great Detriment to the Grasers: That the
Witness,

Witness, in this Particular, had been a considerable Sufferer by it; having fed Cattle, and been obliged to sell them for the same Price he bought them at.

That, were the Distillers to use no unmalted Corn, they could not then feed their Hogs, without buying coarse Corn from the Farmers; and that the Farmers might consume all their Corn, that would not malt, by feeding their Hogs and Horses; which, he said, he apprehended would be a much more beneficial Way of disposing of it, than any they have at present.

Mr. *Timothy Child* said, That he has been in the Business of making of Bacon upwards of Twenty Years: That he has bought Hogs fatted by Farmers, and by Distillers: That Pork and Bacon of Distillers Hogs is not near so good as the Farmers, if kept any time; nor is the Flesh so firm, when dressed; that it wastes in the Dressing very much; and that Six Pounds of the Bacon, fed in the Country, will do as much Service as Eight Pounds of what is fed by the Distillers.

That the Flesh of Distillers Hogs will take Salt, being of a soft Nature; but is unwholesome when kept in Salt or Pickle any time; and half of it will be rotten, when the Flesh of the Farmers Hogs, killed at the same time, will be very good; nor will the former keep so well as the latter in Summer, particularly in the Months of *June, July, and August*; during which time the one is very good, the other very rank and bad: That his Customers (he said) often complain to him, that it is Fish-fed; and that, he apprehends, there is as much Difference between the one and the other, as between a rotten Apple and a sound one.

He said, He gives about Two-pence a Stone more for the Country-fed Hogs, than those the Distillers feed; but that he makes no Difference in the Price to his Customers: That he has had the Distillers Meat frequently returned, which he has changed for Meat fed in the Country; and those who have bought both Sorts have found such a Difference, when boiled, that they afterwards have always asked for the latter.

Being further examined, he said, That the Meat of the Distillers Hogs is eatable in Summer, but it has frequently made People sick; and that he has heard, that the Country-fed Meat is most in Esteem in private Families in *London*: That there is little Difference in Appearance between Farmers and Distillers Hogs at Market; but that He can distinguish them.

He said further, That he apprehends the Pork and Bacon of Hogs, fed by Distillers, will not keep good in a Voyage to the *East* or *West-Indies*: And that, if the Feeding of Hogs by the Farmers was encouraged, it would cause a great Consumption of Corn.

Benjamin

Benjamin Rutland, Grafter, said, That the Fattening of Hogs by Distillers has been the Cause of reducing the Rent of Marsh-Lands, which have lately fallen about Fifteen Shillings in Two Pounds, or Two Pounds Ten Shillings a Year: That he formerly lett a Piece of Marsh-Land for 120 *l. per Annum*, which is now rented for 80 *l.* And that he apprehends, the Occasion of this Abatement is owing to Distillers feeding and selling Hogs so cheap, whereby they have reduced the Price of other Meat; and which Practice, he said, he believed encouraged the Breed of Hogs; but that, if it were otherwise, the Consumption of Pork would not be any ways lessened, especially in and about *London*.

That, at present, the Farmers feed their Servants with Bacon; but if they could dispose of all they feed, they might buy Beef and other Meat for their Servants very reasonable.

That, about Twenty Years ago, his Father supplied the Victualling-Office with Country-fed Hogs; that, at present, the Victualling-Office commonly contract with Distillers; but that he never heard, that Country-fed Hogs were refused there.

As to the Difference of the Price of Hogs, he said, It was about One Pound in an Hundred Stone: But he believes, if Farmers were encouraged, they would sell near as cheap.

Mr. John Jennings said, That he has been a Contractor in buying Hogs for the Victualling-Office: That he has observed, that the Flesh of Hogs that are killed directly from Feeding, is grosser than the Flesh of those drove a Hundred Miles; and that the Hogs that have fasted for some time before they are killed, will take Salt better than those that are killed when they are full; and that the longer they fast, the better they will keep Salt; by reason (as he apprehends) that their Juices ferment the less after they are killed.

That Hogs fed by Distillers are often killed full; and that he has observed the Meat don't keep sweet so long as the Meat of Hogs fed in the Country: That, about Two Years ago, he bought Three hundred Hogs of a Distiller, the Flesh of which was tainted, in the Summer-time, when the Pork fed in the Country was sweet; and that the Flesh of Hogs fed by Distillers is more flabby than the other.

But he said, That, was the Meat of Hogs fed in the Country as far as the Meat of those fed by the Distillers, he believed it would be as soon tainted.

He added, That the Distillers have entered into a Combination, and advanced a large Sum of Money, in order to prevent other Persons from contracting at the Victualling-Office; and that, because the Witness contracted for Hogs with some Farmers, the Distillers afterwards refused to sell him any.

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He said, That there was likewise a Complaint against him, made to the Commissioners at the Victualling-Office by the Distillers, on account of his buying Country-fed Hogs, which, they said, were not so good as those fed by Distillers; whereupon the said Commissioners made an Experiment, by salting some Meat of Hogs fed by the Distillers, and some of those fed by Farmers; and after each had been barrelled Six Months, both were opened, and the Distillers was found to be great Part of it rotten, and the Farmers very good.

Mr. *Anthony Ridley*, who has been a Carcass-Butcher near Forty Years, said, That the Distillers feeding of Hogs, and selling them so cheap, has greatly lessened the Consumption, and reduced the Price of Beef and Mutton: That he formerly sold Four hundred Sheep a Week, but now does not dispose of above Half that Number: And that many more Sheep come to *London* every Week than are sold.

Engles Prescot, a Carcass-Butcher, said, That he formerly could sell Three hundred Sheep in a Week, better than he can now sell an Hundred and Fifty; and that this Decrease is owing to the Distillers, who feed Hogs for little or nothing, and sell them very cheap; and that he is of Opinion, This Practice of the Distillers must, in time, ruin all the Farmers.

The Committee then proceeded to examine the Allegations of the Petition of the Yeomen and Farmers of *East Kent*: And the Evidence given by them to the Committee was as follows:

Mr. *John Reynolds*, a Farmer, occupying about Seven hundred Acres of Land in *Kent*, at the Rent of 300*l. per Annum*, said, That he believes, if Distillers were obliged to draw their Spirits intirely from malted Corn, it would lessen the Consumption of Corn: That he has seen and considered the Calculation made by Mr. *Porter*, who was examined on Behalf of the First Petition; and apprehends it to be a fallacious one, and that the Case of the Farmers and Distillers is not truly stated.

That 100 Quarters of Barley will not only make 105 Quarters of Malt, as he (*Porter*) says it will, but that it is the common Practice to make from that Quantity 140 Quarters of Malt, such as the Distillers use: That formerly, when he, the Witness, was an Officer in the Excise, the Custom of the Maltsters in *Essex* was, to make Three, or Four, and sometimes Five Bushels Increase in a Quarter of Barley, malted for the Use of the Distillers:

D

And

And he believes the common Increase at this Time is Three Bushels.

To this Fact, of 140 Quarters of Malt being made from 100 Quarters of Barley, the said Mr. *Porter* said, He believed it was practicable; but that 100 Quarters of Barley made into 105 Quarters of Malt, would weigh more, and he believed would produce more Spirit.

And the said Mr. *Reynolds* added further, That if Mr. *Porter*, by advancing in his Calculation, that 100 Quarters of Barley is equal in Weight to 131 Quarters of Barley malted, at the Increase of Five Quarters in the Hundred, intends to prove, that the same Quantity of Spirits may be drawn from the 100 Quarters of Barley, as from the 137 Quarters Four Bushels of Malt, it is a false Conclusion, and cannot be done; for that One Quarter of Barley made into Malt will produce as much Spirit as One Quarter of raw Corn: And that therefore the Witness apprehended there would be no Increase in the Consumption of Corn, by the Use of Malt only.

He further said, That, supposing it true, that 100 Quarters of Barley would produce the same Quantity of Spirits, as might be drawn from 131 Quarters of Barley made into Malt, at the Increase of Five Quarters in the Hundred, he apprehends, that the Use of malted Corn only would be a great Detriment to the Consumption of Spirits, and, of Consequence, to the Consumption of Corn; for that Distillers would draw their Spirits at almost double the Expence they do at present, and that the Price of Spirits must be proportionably raised; so that if Spirits were now drawn for 1 s. per Gallon, they could not then be drawn under 2 s.; and the Distiller, in that Case, would raise his Price to the Compounder, in Proportion; and the Compounder would probably take Advantage from thence of raising it to the Retailer, above that Proportion; which Retailer would practise the same to his Customers; so that by that means the Price of Spirits might be raised to 4 s. per Gallon.

The present Price of Spirits in the Retailers Shops, he said, was Sixpence per Pint, that is, 4 s. per Gallon; and that the same would be raised, by the Use of malted Corn intirely, to Seven or Eight Shillings per Gallon, by which extravagant Price of Spirits, he said, he apprehended little or none would be drank.

That, where he lives, he can buy Brandy for about 3 s. 6 d. or 4 s. per Gallon; and has bought Ten Gallons of it for a Moidore.

That the Distillers have drawn Spirits cheaper since the Commencement of the War, because the Price of Corn has been falling; and that he is regulated in the Price of his Spirits by the Price of Corn.

That

That he thinks it is much the same thing to the Farmer, whether he uses his Corn in feeding Hogs, or sells it to the Distillers; that he believes, if all the Hogs fed by them in a Year were to be distributed among the Farmers, it would not amount to One apiece.

Being asked, If it was the same thing to sell the Material of a Manufacture, or the Manufacture itself; he said, He conceives the Farmer is the best Judge what to do: That he did not know any Reason why the Contractors for the Navy could not buy Hogs fed in the Country as cheap as from the Distillers.

Mr. *John Curling* Maltster and Farmer, said, That he rents 1400 Acres of Land; that in the Barley which he malts for Market, the Increase is Three Bushels in a Quarter.

Mr. *John Nelson*, a Hoyman, said, That most of the Malt that is brought to *Bear-Key*, for the Use of Distillers, is manufactured after the Rate of Two and half and Three Bushels Increase in each Quarter of Barley; and in Pale Malt rather a larger Increase.

That a great deal of Corn grows in some Years, which is utterly incapable of being malted.

The said Mr. *Curling* also said, That there is every Year a great Quantity of Corn produced in wet Lands, which will not malt; of which Sort the Witness said he has some growing now, and has a great deal of it every Year.

That Three Parts in Four of the raw Corn, which he brings out of *Kent*, is for the Use of the Distillers; and that the Price of Wheat is about 18 or 19 s. per Quarter; which, if malted, would come to a higher or less Rate, according to the Manner in which it was malted.

Mr. *Charles Matson*, a Farmer, renting 700 l. a Year, said, That he apprehends, if the Distillers were to draw their Spirits from Malt, it would be the Ruin of the Farmers; for that it would lessen the Consumption of Corn, by Increasing the Price of Spirits: And that the Increasing the Price of Spirits will be an Encouragement to Smugglers to run *French Brandy*.

Mr. *Raynor*, a Hoyman, said, That the Distillers make use of the best Corn that comes to *Bear-Key*.

Mr. *John Harrison* said, That if Spirits were to be drawn intirely from malted Corn, it would raise the Price of those now sold for 4 s. per Gallon, to above 5 s. and would be a great Encouragement

couragement for Smugglers to run *French* Brandy; which Brandy, he said, might be now bought for 4s. 6d. *per Gallon*: And that, if People found they could buy it cheaper than home-made Spirits, they certainly would; which, consequently, must lessen the Consumption of home-made Spirits, and be detrimental both to the Farmer and Distiller: But that, if the Importation of *French* Brandies could be intirely prevented, the Consumption of home-made Spirits would increase.

That he believes the Accounts at the Excise-Office will prove, that the Duty upon Spirits has been increasing ever since the Act passed about Twenty Years ago, which impowered the Distillers to mix raw Corn with Malt.

And all the Witnesses, examined on the Behalf of this Petition, concurred in their Evidence, That there is, every Year, a great Quantity of Corn incapable of being malted.

Then the Committee came to the following Resolutions.

Resolved,

That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petitioners the Yeomen, Farmers, and Grasers, in the Counties of *Middlesex, Surrey, and Kent*, have proved the Allegations of their Petition.

Resolved,

That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Petitioners the Yeomen and Farmers of *East Kent* have proved the Allegation of their Petition..

